

UNCLASSIFIED

AD NUMBER	
AD385753	
CLASSIFICATION CHANGES	
TO:	UNCLASSIFIED
FROM:	CONFIDENTIAL
LIMITATION CHANGES	
TO: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.	
FROM: Distribution authorized to U.S. Gov't. agencies and their contractors; Administrative/Operational Use; 15 SEP 1966. Other requests shall be referred to Assistant Chief of Staff For Force Development (Army), Attn: ACSFOR-RD, Washington DC 20310.	
AUTHORITY	
30 Sep 1978, DoDD 5200.10; ACSFOR per DTIC form 55	

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN DELIMITED
AND CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE
UNDER DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.20 AND
NO RESTRICTIONS ARE IMPOSED UPON
ITS USE AND DISCLOSURE,

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE;
DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED,

SECURITY

MARKING

The classified or limited status of this report applies to each page, unless otherwise marked.

Separate page printouts MUST be marked accordingly.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18, U.S.C., SECTIONS 793 AND 794. THE TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.

NOTICE: When government or other drawings, specifications or other data are used for any purpose other than in connection with a definitely related government procurement operation, the U. S. Government thereby incurs no responsibility, nor any obligation whatsoever; and the fact that the Government may have formulated, furnished, or in any way supplied the said drawings, specifications, or other data is not to be regarded by implication or otherwise as in any manner licensing the holder or any other person or corporation, or conveying any rights or permission to manufacture, use or sell any patented invention that may in any way be related thereto.

C CONFIDENTIAL L

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
APO San Francisco 96250

AVBB-SC

15 September 1966

AD385753

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

THRU:

Commanding General *awg*
II FFORCEV
ATTN: G-3 D & T
APO 96227

TO:

Assistant Chief of Staff
For Force Development
Department of the Army
Washington D.C. 20310

D D C
RECEIVED
DEC 14 1966
B

In accordance with MACV Directive Number 335-8, the following report is submitted.

1. Name of Operation: Operation "AURORA I".
2. Type of Operation: Search and destroy, spoiling attack, Road-runner, Bushmaster and VC tax collection operations.
3. Date of Operation: 090700H July - 170001H July 1966 / OPORD 10-66.
4. Location: Tuc Trung, in the northern area of Long Khanh Province.
5. Command Headquarters: 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate).
6. Reporting Officer: Brigadier General PAUL F. SMITH.
7. Task Organization:

as detailed below.

a. TF NORDIN - LTC Nordin, Commanding

3/319th Arty (-)
One Plat, E/17th Cav
One Plat, 2/503d Inf
One Plat, D/16th Armor
One Squad Engr
JUMP CP

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

ACSFOR-RD File

66X017
Encl 4

C CONFIDENTIAL L

(**CONFIDENTIAL**) **L**

AVBE-SC

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

15 September 1966

b. TF HUTTON - MAJ Hutton, Commanding

HHC (-) 173d Abn Bde (Sep)
H&S 3/319th Artillery
One (1) Platoon E/17th Cavalry
One (1) Section D/16th Armor

c. TF SUTTON - MAJ Sutton, Commanding

Company E/17th Cavalry
Company D/16th Armor
One (1) Platoon (4.2) 2/503d Infantry
173d Engineer Company (-)
173d Signal Platoon

d. TF FRIEND - CPT Friend, Commanding

One (1) Platoon (4.2 mortar) 1/503d Infantry
M.P. Platoon (-)

e. TF HEDRICK - MAJ Hedrick, Commanding

One (1) Platoon E/17th Cavalry
One (1) Platoon D/16th Armor
Support Battalion (-)
Elements 1st Logistic
1/503d Trains
2/503d Trains

f. TF 1/503d INFANTRY - LTC Goad, Commanding

1/503d Infantry
173d Engineer Company (-)
RRU Team
National Police

g. TF 2/503d INFANTRY - LTC Walsh, Commanding

2/503d Infantry
One (1) Squad (Engineer)
RRU Team
National Police

h. TF 4/503d INFANTRY - LTC Healy, Commanding

4/503d Infantry
One (1) Squad (Engineer)
RRU Team
National Police

"This document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U. S. C., Section 793 and 794. Its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law."

(**CONFIDENTIAL**) **L**

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

15 September 1966

BRIGADE CONTROL

Co A/82d Avn Bn

8. Intelligence:

a. Enemy Situation Before Operation: Elements of the VC 274th MF Regt were believed to have been located in the LONG KHANH Province. The D/82d Local Force Bn was known to operate in northern LONG KHANH Province. The OA was astride a movement route through which VC units and supplies move between War Zone "D" and PHUOC TUY Province, BINH TUY Province and the MAO TAO area. The VC were known to have a well established intelligence net in the operational vicinity, and they were known to be thoroughly familiar with all aspects of the area. Many reports had been received, concerning extensive VC taxation of the traffic on National Route 20 in Northern LONG KHANH Province, especially traffic of commercial nature.

b. Enemy Situation During Operation: Twenty-seven contacts were made with VC forces during this operation; seventeen of the contacts were VC initiated. All contacts were with small VC units of two-squad-size or less. Most VC initiated contacts were minor incidents of VC sniping and harassment. Interrogation of detained VCS, questioning of Vietnamese commercial vehicle operators, and information volunteered by concerned citizens revealed several locations and other pertinent data concerning VC taxation points in the area. One taxation point was observed from the air and later confirmed on the ground. Nine aircraft received ground fire, one sustaining hits.

c. Area of Operations:

(1) Weather Conditions: The climate in the area of operation

3

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 September 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

was typical of tropical zones affected by the monsoons. Winds are gentle to moderate, generally from a southwesterly direction. Rainfall was normal, occurring during the late afternoon and early evening hours. Visibility was generally good, with ceilings of approximately 10,000 feet lowering to approximately 1,000 feet during showers.

(2) Terrain: The area is generally an alluvial valley formed by the Song La Nga, flowing generally northward, and its tributaries. The highest points in the area are to be found in the dominating north-south oriented ridge line to the east. The remainder of the area is characterized by rolling hills of low elevation and ravines containing streams flowing generally eastward or westward into the Song La Nga. The vegetation in the vicinity of the river consists primarily of marsh grass which blends into tropical forest.

9. Mission: The mission of the Bde was to conduct search and destroy/spoiling attacks in the AO. Concurrently conducting Roadrunner, Bushmaster and Anti-VC Tax Collection operations within the same AO.

10. Concept of Operation: The Bde moved into AO, AURORA I, by road and air movement in two (2) phases. One intermediate Fire Support Base was set up to support the initial assault on Position VENUS. One position was secured by establishing the Fire Support Base and Bn's CP there. The second phase involved air assault on three (3) LZ's: MARS, JUPITER and SATURN in the NW portion of AO. Liaison was established with 10th ARVN Div at XUAN LOC with Bde LNO stationed there.

11. Execution: The operation was conducted in three (3) phases as follows (page 5).

4
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 September 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

- a. Phase I: Movement of Brigade to AO "AURORA I" (8-9 July 1966).
- b. Phase II: Conduct search and destroy operations conducting Roadrunner, Bushmaster and Anti-VC Tax Collection Operations.
- c. Phase III: Displacement of Bde on Operation "AURORA II".

D - Day (9 July 1966)

The 173d Abn Bde (Sep) terminated Operation "YORKTOWN" and commenced Operation "AURORA I" at 0700 hrs. 1/503d Inf remained at Position WASHINGTON in preparation for an air assault, 10 July. 2/503d Inf commenced at 0847 hrs and conducted an air assault on Position VENUS (YT 430532) closing at 0957 hrs, with negative results. They assumed the Fire Support Base security mission, Bde Reaction Force and CP security. 3/319th Arty supported the air assault of 2/503d Inf from Position PLUTO (YT395360) and then moved to Position VENUS to form the Bde Fire Support Base. HHC (-) moved at 1000 hrs from Position WASHINGTON by road to Position VENUS, closing at 1228 hrs. A/82d Avn participated in the lift of 2/503d Inf and D/16th Armor with E/17th Cav providing convoy security as well as providing control elements in the convoy.

Psychological Operations/Civic Actions: Construction projects and English classes continued in the BIEN HOA area.

D + 1 (10 July 1966)

Operation "AURORA I" continues NE of XUAN LOC. 1/503d Inf conducted an air assault, commencing at 0900 hrs on LZ's JUPITER (YT 334347) and MARS (YT 376365). The LZ's were secured at 1242 hrs and companies initiated

5

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 September 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

search and destroy operations. A/1/503d Inf at YT 350372, B/1/503d Inf at YT 345335 and C/1/503d Inf at YT 350372 stayed in position overnight to continue search and destroy operations on 11 July. No significant contact was made by any of the units stated above. 2/503d Inf continued to provide Fire Support Base security, CP security and the Bde Reaction Force. A/82d Avn participated in the helilift of 1/503d Inf. E/17th Cav conducted a Roadrunner operation north along Route 20 to YT 569379 and returned with negative results. E/17th Cav introduced two Long Range Patrols at YT 452255; they were to remain in this location with extraction on order.

Psychological Operations/Civic Actions: MEDCAP treated 147 patients in the village of THANH MAU (YT 405263). Construction projects and English classes continue in the BIEN HOA area.

D + 2 (11 July 1966)

Operation "AURORA I" continued north/NW of XUAN LOC. 1/503 Inf continued their search and destroy operations in AO. At 1035 hrs, in vicinity of YT 342372, C/1/503d Inf discovered four(4) tons of polished rice in two (2) houses, also a small boat dock. The rice was not extracted at that time, but an ambush was set up during the night. The Recon Plat 1/503d Inf conducted a mounted patrol NW of vicinity YT 390385. The remainder of the Bn provided security for the Fire Support Base and CP as well as Bde Reaction Force. E/17th Cav conducted Roadrunner operation NE along Route 20 to YT 569379 and returned to Position VENUS with negative results. At 1655 hrs a patrol from E/17th Cav sighted 2 VC at YT 509241 moving SW; one VC was armed. No contact was made. The two patrols from E/17th Cav,

6
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 September 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

that were introduced 9 July, were still in position. A/82d Avn, vicinity YT 759563, light fire team received approximately 12 rounds of automatic weapons fire. There were no hits on the aircraft and suppressive fire was placed on the area, with unknown results.

Psychological Operations/Civic Actions: MEDCAP treated 172 patients in the village of HOA THUAM. There was a leaflet drop of 15,000 leaflets. Construction projects and English classes continued in BIEN HOA.

D + 3 (12 July 1966)

Operation "AURORA I" continued NE of XUAN LOC. 2/503d Inf continued to provide security for the Fire Support Base, and Bde CP, and the Reaction Force. 1/503d Inf commenced an air assault on LZ's PAT and MIKE, with Co C air assaulting on MIKE and Co's A and B on PAT. The companies moved out and conducted platoon-size patrols. There was negative contact. 4/503d Inf commenced their air assault on LZ GERONIMO at 1031 hrs and completed assault at 1338 hrs. They conducted patrolling activities and search and destroy operations in vicinity of the LZ. E/17th Cav conducted a Roadrunner and Anti-VC Tax Collection Point operation NE along Route 20 to vicinity PHU LAM (YT 740535). At 1310 hrs they discovered a Tax Collection Point at YT 939535. The collection point was destroyed and the Cav returned to Position VENUS. E/17th Cav patrols Qual and Robin were extracted at 1310 hrs. E/17th Cav introduced another Long Range Patrol into YS 335273, where they made contact with an estimated 20 VC. Artillery was called in with negative results. 3/319th Arty moved A Btry to LZ GERONIMO in support of 4/503d Inf. A/82d Avn participated in the lifting of

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 September 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

both 1st and 4th Battalions, 503d Infantry.

Psychological Operations/Civic Actions: MEDCAP treated 121 patients, AP #107, YT 522352. Projects as stated before continued in BIEN HOA.

D + 4 (13 July 1966)

1/503d Inf continued search and destroy operations. At 1525 hrs, A/1/503d Inf took 4 VC under fire as they attempted to cross the river in a sampan, vicinity YT 493290. Results were: 4 VC KIA (BC) and 2 sampans (w/weapons) sunk. 2/503d Inf continued their mission of Fire Support Base security, Bde CP security and Bde Ready Reaction Force. B/1/503d Inf conducted an Eagle Flight into YT 509156 with negative results. They returned to Position WASHINGTON at 1700 hrs. 4/503d Inf moved to YT 327270 to conduct search and destroy operations in the area. Negative contact was made while trying to make contact with VC sighted by E/17th Cav on 12 July. 4/503d Inf and Bde CP moved to Position PLUTO (YT 392260) to support B/4/503d Inf. A/82d Avn participated in the lift of B/2/503d and B/4/503d Inf at 0930 hrs. A gunship received one (1) round of small arms fire resulting in 1 US WIA. Fire was returned resulting with 1 VC KIA (est). E/17th Cav conducted a reconnaissance SE into AO ZULU with negative results.

Psychological Operations/Civic Actions: MEDCAP treated 109 patients in CAM BUY (YT 405264). A broadcast was made along Route 20, subject: "Tax Collection". Rear area projects continued in BIEN HOA.

D + 5 (14 July 1966/Operational Summary on page 9)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 September 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

B/2/503d Inf conducted an Eagle Flight in vicinity YT 518178 with negative results; they were extracted at 1700 hrs. 4/503d Inf (-) remained at Position VENUS. B/4/503d Inf continued search and destroy operations in SW corner of AO. At 1200 hrs, Co B found 200 lbs of paddy rice at YT 337276. They destroyed the rice in place. A/4/503d Inf patrol found a M-16 AP mine rigged with a trip wire. It was destroyed in place. E/17th Cav received small arms fire from an estimated 6 VC. Fire was returned causing VC to flee west, with unknown VC casualties and no US casualties. 3/319th moved by road to Position VENUS closing at 1641 hrs. A/82d Avn participated in an airlift of B/2/503d Inf. At 0630 hrs a ship (helicopter) of A/82d Avn received 7-8 small arms rounds at altitude of 400 feet and speed of 85 knots; but sustaining no hits.

Psychological Operations/Civic Actions: MEDCAP treated 201 patients in DON DIEA (YT 420265); also, Anti-VC Tax Collection was given. Rear area projects continued.

D + 6 (15 July 1966)

A/1/503d Inf moved west to Route 20 then north closing in the area (Position VENUS) at 1710 hrs. 2/503d Inf conducted a mounted patrol in APC's to the north and west of Position WASHINGTON with negative results. C/4/503d Inf departed BIEN HOA by vehicle convoy and arrived in Position VENUS at 1200 hrs. 3/319th Arty provided general support. A/82d Avn participated in the airlift of B and C Co's of 1/503d Inf and B/4/503d Inf. 173d MP Plat, returning to BIEN HOA, received small arms fire and automatic weapons fire at YT 380265. Fire was returned with 2 VC KIA

²
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 September 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

(est). There were no US casualties. This occurred at 1750 hrs. There were an estimated 10 VC at this point of conflict, which was believed to have been a VC Tax Collection Point.

Psychological Operations/Civic Actions: MEDCAP treated 135 patients in the village of HOA THAUM (YT 485335).

D + 7 (16 July 1966)

1/503d Inf conducted maintenance in preparation for forthcoming operation. One Co (-) was airlifted to VO DAT to assume security missions for the BSOC which moved on 17 July. 2/503d Inf conducted an airlift at 0925 hrs. At 1150 hrs, 2/503d Inf received sporadic small arms fire vicinity YT 765581. Fire was returned with negative response. There was 1 US WIA. B/2/503d Inf conducted two-company-sized operations. A/4/503d Inf moved to vicinity of Position PLUTO (YT 390260) and then patrolled west and north. At 1013 hrs, A/4/503d Inf found two (2) huts constructed from ponchos, 5 fox-holes and approximately 60 feet of electrical cord, vicinity YT 365278, at 1240 hrs. A/4/503d Inf received an estimated 15-20 rds a/w fire. Fire was returned with negative results, with US sustaining no casualties. C/4/503d Inf conducted a search and destroy operation south and west of Position VENUS, vicinity YT 413314, commencing at 0730 hrs. At 1250 hrs, C/4/503d Inf made contact with 4 VC. They fired on the VC and KIA 1 VC who was attempting to set-up a DH-10 mine. One other fell but was dragged away. There were no US casualties. E/17th Cav conducted an Anti-VC Tax Collection operation, under OPCON of 2/503d Inf, vicinity of PHUONG LAM (YT 793493). They departed Position VENUS at 0730 hrs. At 1012 hrs they

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL L

AVBE-SC

15 September 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

made contact with an estimated VC squad at YT 755550, resulting in 1 US WIA. VC casualties were unknown. A/82d Avn participated in all Bde Helilifts.

Psychological Operations/Civic Actions: MEDCAP treated 188 patients in the village of DUC THANG (YT 430262) and TAM BUNG (YT 430260). Ten-thousand (10,000) Anti-Tax Collection leaflets were distributed in HOA THUAM (YT 486336) and DINH QUAN (YT 567377). A solatium payment was made in the village of BINH HOA (YT 415265), for a child injured by a Bde vehicle. Included were: 2,000 RVN Plasters, 3 cases of soup, 2 gals of cooking oil, 3 packets of dry mild, 1 box of soap, C rations and ammo crates (empty), distributed in DUC THANG (YT 430260) and TAM BUNG (YT 405263).

D + 8 (17 July 1966)

Operation "AURORA I" terminated (time and location see page 1) and Operation "AURORA II" commenced NW of PHUONG LAM (YT 720480).

Psychological Operations/Civic Actions: NONE.

12. Supporting Forces:

a. Aviation: Aviation units supporting the Bde were as follows:

Company A/82d Aviation Battalion

173d Aviation Platoon

145th Aviation Battalion

74th Aviation Company (fixed-wing)

b. Sorties Flown:

Combat Assault 951

11

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 September 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

Armed Helicopter	182
Resupply	522
Command and Liaison	482
Command and Control	85
Medical Evacuation	40
Aerial Reconnaissance	68
Psychological Warfare	15
Aerial Observer	17
Miscellaneous	79
Total Sorties	2,441

c. Highlights of Aviation Activities:

(1) The MAD (Mortar Aerial Delivery) plus one light fire team was credited with neutralizing a VC ambush site which had an escort-party of the 173d MP Plat pinned down on Highway 20.

(2) Co A/82d Avn Bn participated in fifteen separate combat lifts during Operation "AURORA I".

(3) Co A/82d Abn Bn flew 940.3 hours in support of the Bde transporting 2,952 passengers and 164.4 tons of cargo and equipment.

d. Air Force: A total of 19 TAC Air sorties were flown, expending 15.4 tons of ordnance. Also, a total of 37 FAC Air sorties were flown during the operation.

The Air Force provided preplanned fire on call and immediate air request missions throughout the operation. An Airborne FAC was used during the operation and was effective in the direction of timely and accurate support by TAC.

e. Artillery: How and when employed.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 September 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

- (1) On all missions from 9 thru 17 July 1966.
- (2) 3/319th Arty was in general support of the Bde, for specific operations - batteries were placed in direct support of the particular unit concerned.
- (2) Harassing and interdiction fires were fired throughout the operation.
- (4) Statistical breakdown: A total of 193 missions were fired in support of the operation expending a total of 2,415 rounds of artillery and 4.2 mortar rounds.

13. Combat Services Logistical and/or Administrative:

a. General: To support Operation AURORA I, a BSOC was established at TUC TRUNG. Included were supply, transportation, maintenance and medical facilities of the 173d Support Battalion.

b. Supply and Transportation: Resupply of the Bde was accomplished by road convoy (land LOC) from BIEN HOA/LONG BINH to TUC TRUNG. 173d Spt Bn furnished Class I, II & IV items while the 1st Logistical Command supplied Class III, IIIA and Class V. Resupply to the forward Inf Bn's was accomplished by UH-1D utilizing a total of 125 sorties. 3/319th Arty, HHC Bde and the separate companies resupplied themselves via road utilizing organic vehicles. A total of 449 tons of supplies were handled during the operation. Breakdown is as follows:

Class I	145 tons
Class II & IV	17 tons
Class III & IIIA	196 tons
Class V	91 tons

CONFIDENTIAL

CC CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 September 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

The 574th Quartermaster Plat (Bath) provided a shower point facility which accommodated 400-600 men daily. A Graves Registration (GR) team provided the Bde with GR coverage. Eighteen (18) 2½ ton trucks from the 120th Transportation Company (Lt Trk) assisted the Bde in deploying for Operation "AURORA I".

c. Maintenance: A contact team from Co D Maintenance, 173d Spt Bn provided direct support to TUC TRUNG employing 2 officers and 22 enlisted men. Back-up support to the element at the BSOC was provided by Co D (-) Maintenance which remained at BIEN HOA. Daily resupply of parts and equipment was accomplished by road convoy with unserviceable direct exchange items and unserviceable major assemblies being evacuated on the return movement of the daily resupply convoys. A total of 110 jobs were received in the area of mechanical, service, signal and armament. Of these, 107 were completed, 7 were uncompleted and 2 were evacuated at the end of the operation.

d. Medical: Co B Medical provided medical support of this operation employing 4 officers and 34 enlisted men. Medical, dental, surgical, medical supply and mess support was provided by the company. Casualty evacuation from line units was accomplished by Dustoff to the clearing station in the BSOC. Casualties requiring further treatment were further evacuated to the 3d MASH, 93d Evacuation Hospital, or the Bde Clearing Station (Rear) at BIEN HOA utilizing Dustoff or vehicle, depending on seriousness of injury. A total of 128 patients were treated.

e. Commo: The primary means of communication during the operation was FM radio. Where communication was utilized within the Bde was

C CONFIDENTIAL L

AVBF-SC

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

15 September 1966

Radio Relay System were established to communicate with task forces when necessary. Secure teletype and VHF telephone patch system were established to II FFORCEV and Bde Rear Base at BIEN HOA.

14. Psychological Operations/Civic Actions: During Operation "AURORA I" the Bde S5 operated in the following locals: THAN MAU, HOA THUAN, AP # 107, CAM BUNG, CON DIEA, DUC THANG, TAM BUNG, TRAI LAN CAY, GIA KIEM, GIA TAM, and DINH QUAN. MEDCAP missions were launched daily, while 1 leaflet and 3 loudspeaker missions were flown.

a. The following is a listing of activities totals for the period of 10-16 July (both dates inclusive):

MEDCAP	1,161 treated
Leaflets	20,000
Solatium	2000\$VN

Distribution

Soup	3 cases
Cooking Oil	2 gals
Milk, dry	3 packs
Soap, Borax	1 box
Rice	200 lbs
Soup	10 cases
Soap & Borax	100 bars plus 10 cases
Wheat	100 lbs
Salt	100 lbs
Corn Meal	100 lbs
Cooking Oil	20 gals
Milk	7 packets

CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL L

AVBE-SC

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

15 September 1966

15. Operation "AURORA I" resulted in:

VC Losses

KIA 5 (BC)

KIA 5 (est)

VCC 0

VCS 5

US Losses

KIA 0

WIA 3

MIA 0

Enemy Equipment Losses

Weapons None

Ammunition/Munition:

Small arms rounds 45

Hand grenades 7

Mines 2

Other:

Rice 2 tons

Salt 400 lbs

Cooking Oil 38 gals

Soybean Oil 14 bottles

Sampans 2

COMMANDERS ANALYSIS/CONCLUSIONS/OBSERVATIONS and LESSONS LEARNED

Commanders Analysis: The 173d Abn Bde's (Sep) Operation AURORA I provided a valuable training vehicle for the 4/503d Inf. As the newest unit in the Bde, they gained extensive experience in air assaults, search and destroy operations and small unit patrolling. The enemy reaction was to flee without engaging Bde units except by limited harassing action.

Map Navigation, March and Bivouac Discipline, Detection and Avoidance

CONFIDENTIAL L

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 September 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

of Boody Traps, Adjustment of Artillery Fire and Communications Security are 5 major areas in which additional training is being given.

No main forces were found in the area at the time of the operation. Contacts were relatively light and with small local force VC elements in size of 2 squads or less. Two VC Tax Collection Points were observed in operation, and interrogation revealed the possible location(s) of others.

Lessons Learned: To save time in recovering rice caches, each member of a unit should carry an empty bag with him. There will be no necessity to delay recovery while rice bags are brought forward.

In many cases, battlefield evacuation can be performed by an ordinary UH-1D helicopter as satisfactorily as by special medical Dustoff aircraft, since Dustoff aircraft are in such demand, this provides quicker recovery.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

E. B. Roberson

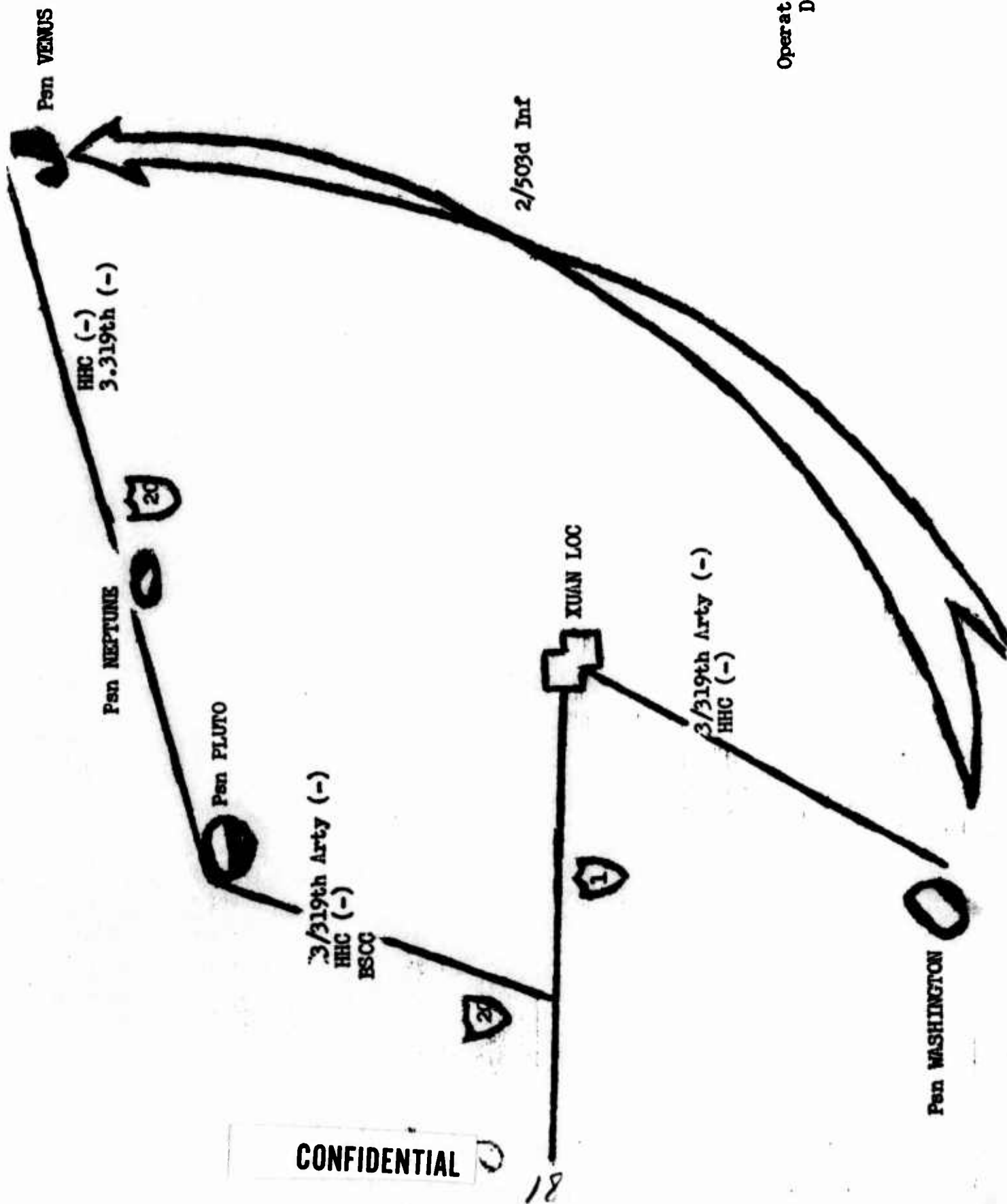
E. B. ROBERSON
1LT, AGC
Asst AG

17

CONFIDENTIAL

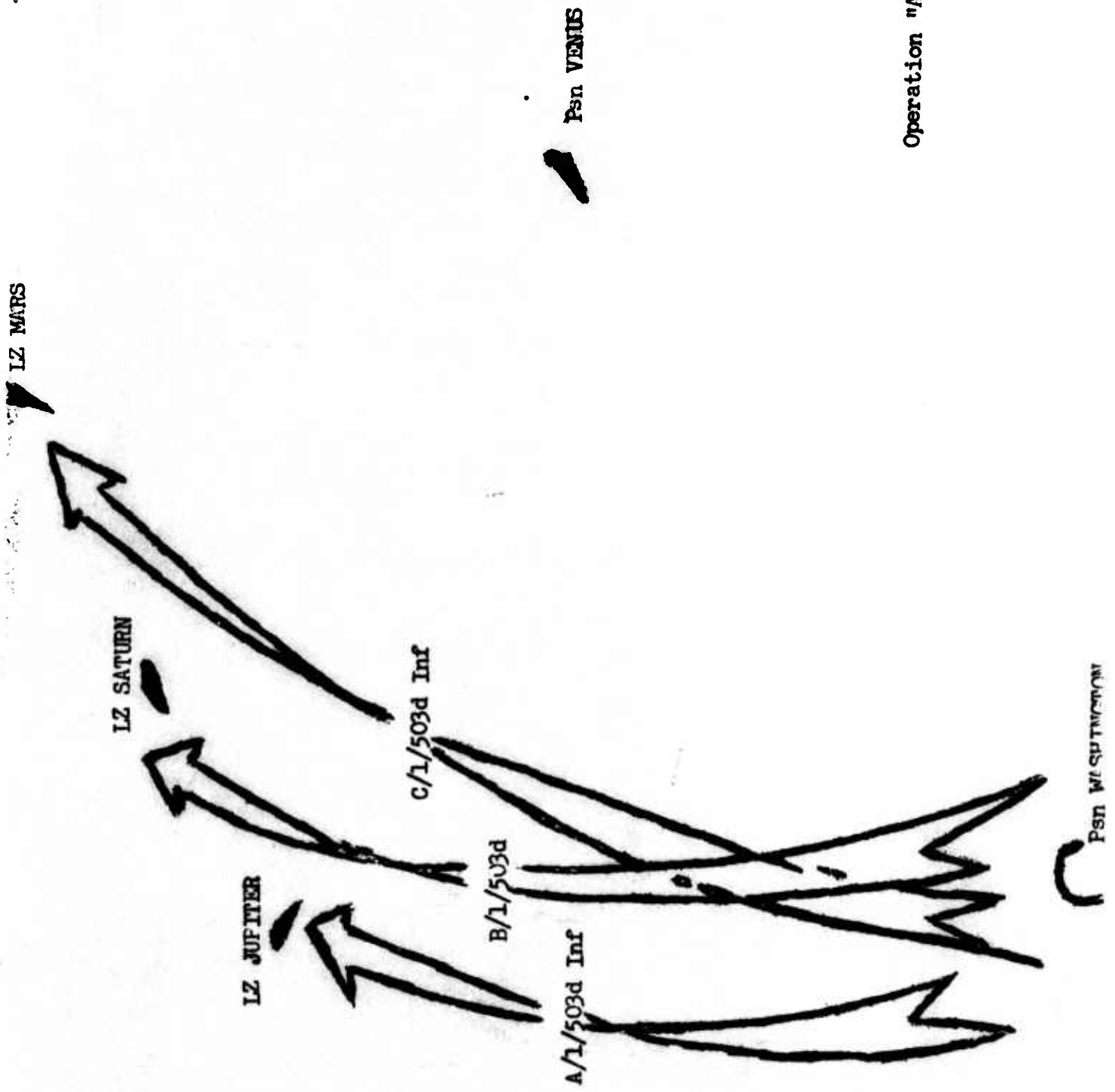
CONFIDENTIAL

Operation "AURORA I"
D - Day

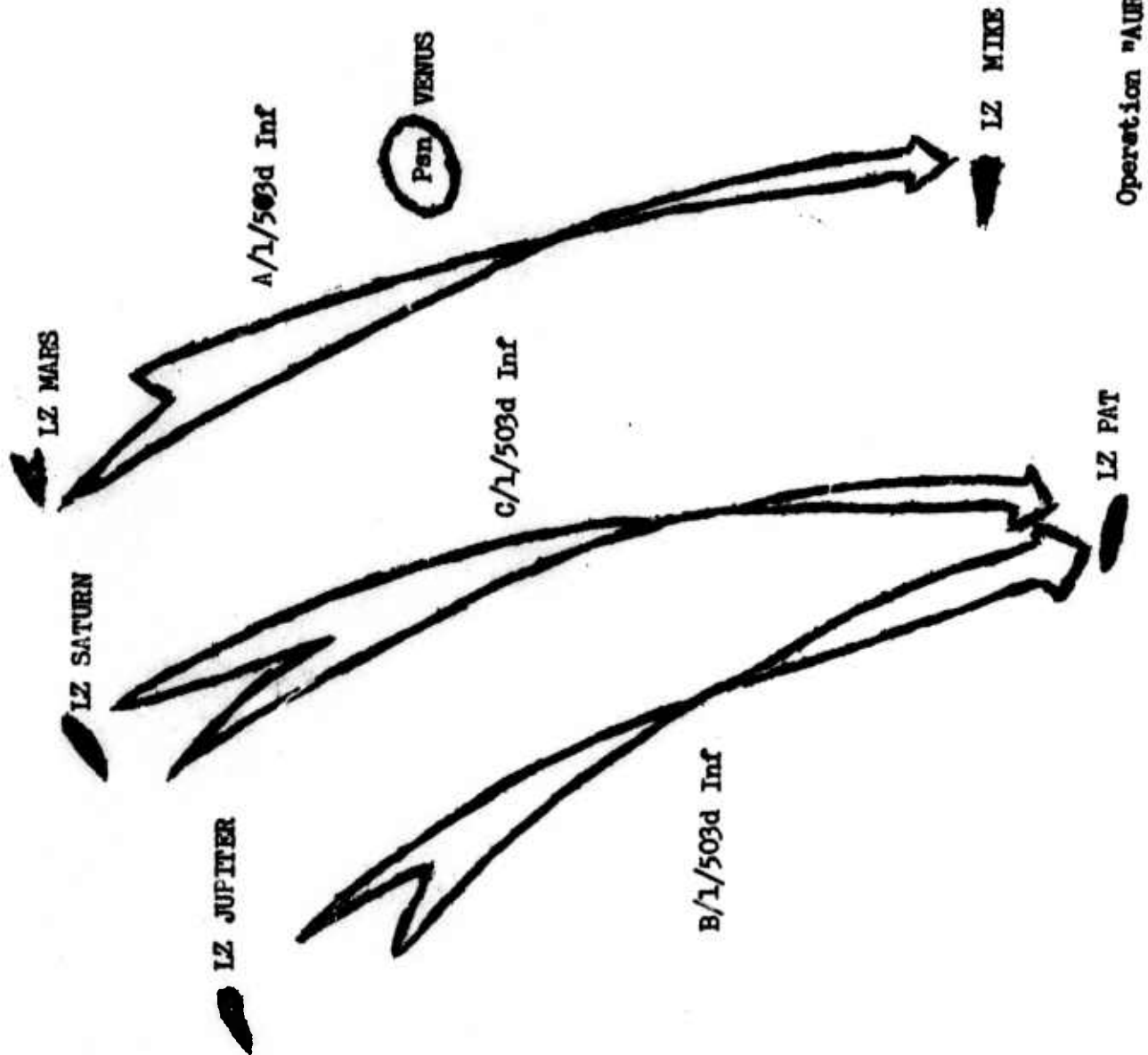


CONFIDENTIAL

Operation "AURORA I" D+1
D+3



CONFIDENTIAL A1

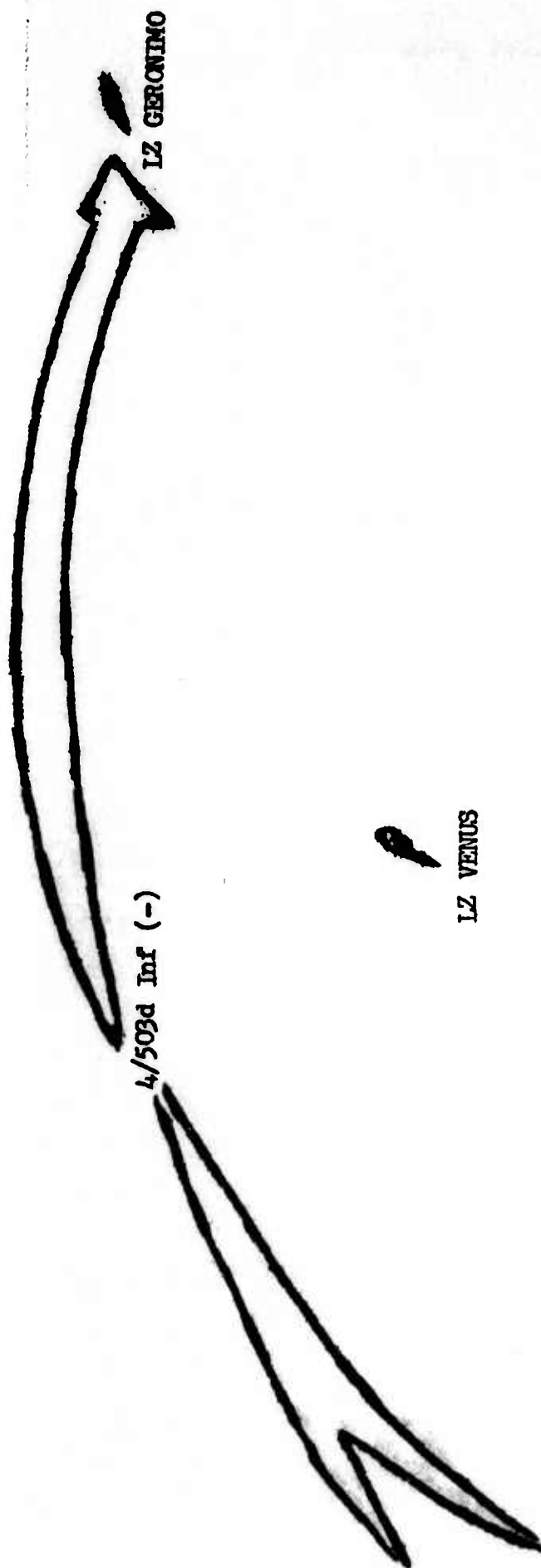


Operation "AURORA I" D + 3

20
CONFIDENTIAL tal

C~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ A1

Operation "AURORA I" D + 3



LZ VENUS

4/503d Inf (-)

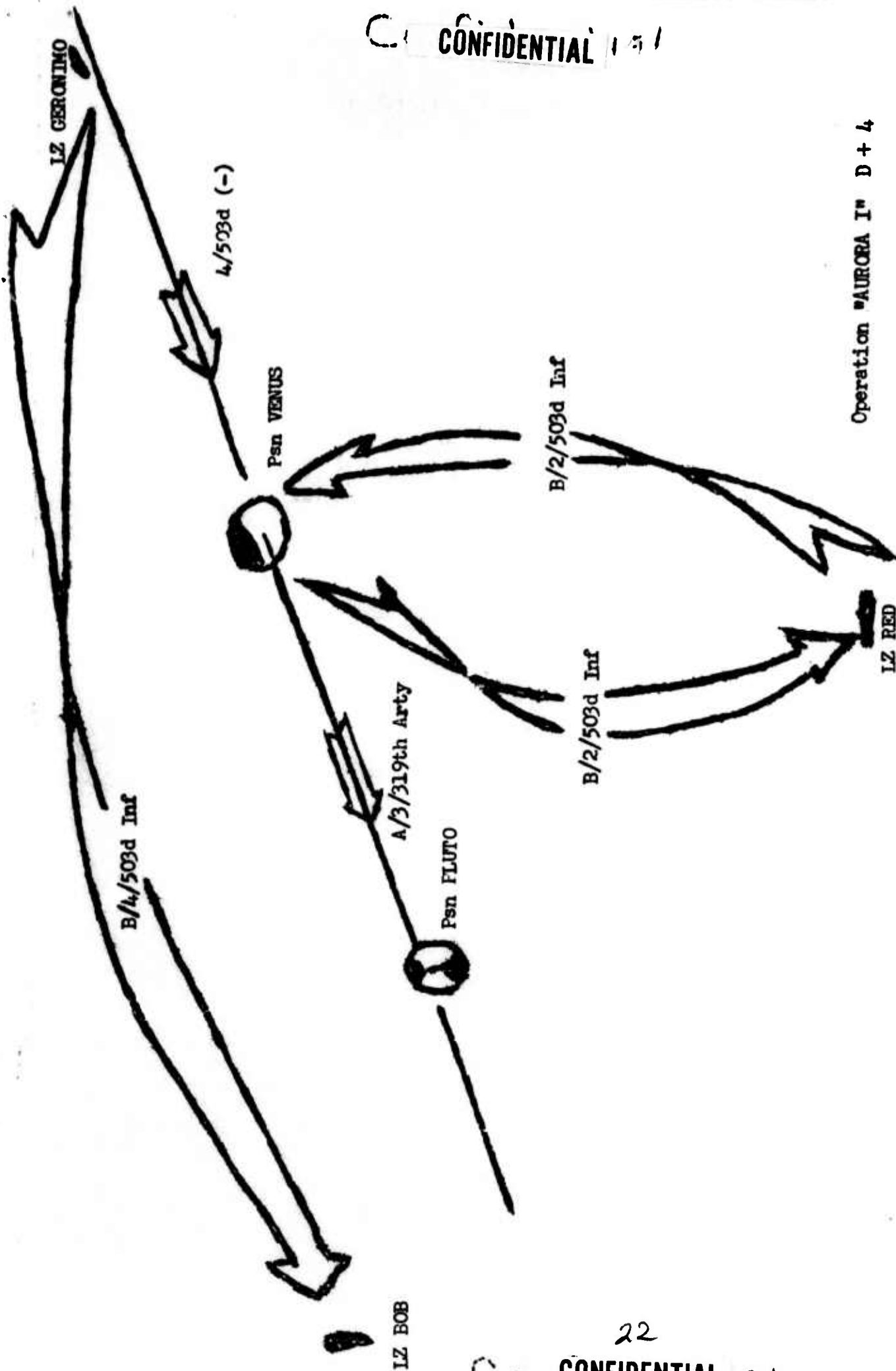
LZ GERONIMO

BIEN HOA

2/
C~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ A1

CONFIDENTIAL 151

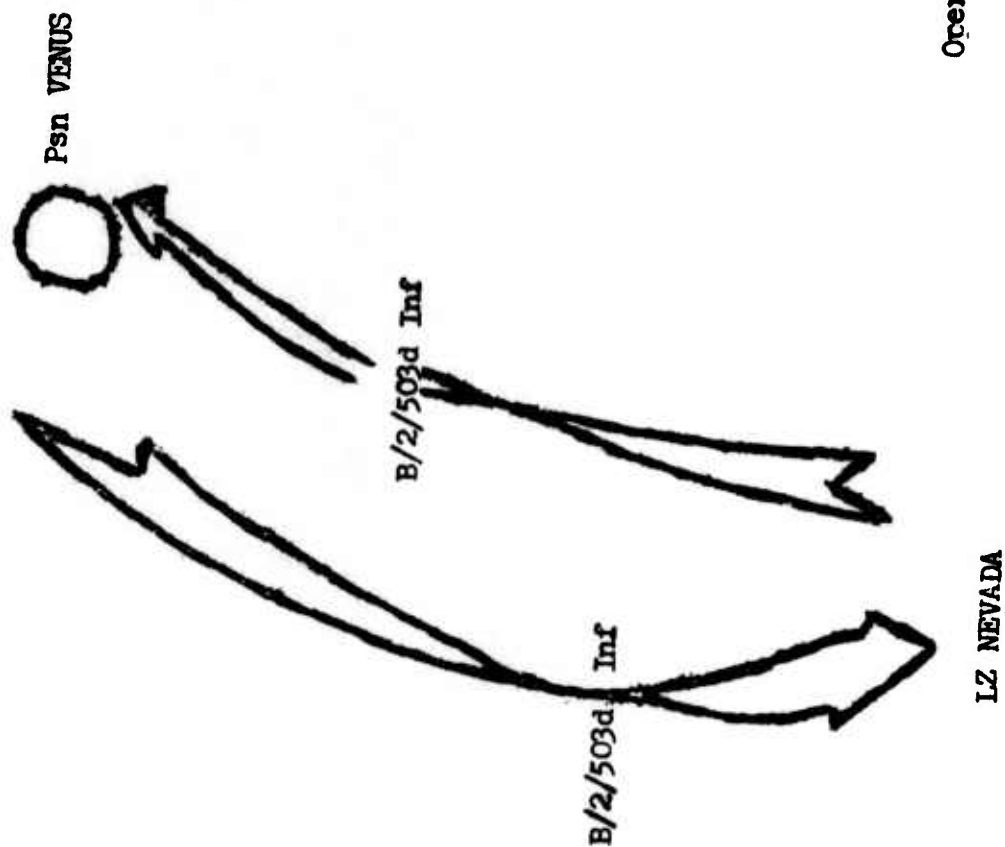
Operation "AURORA I" D + 4



22
CONFIDENTIAL a1

C. CONFIDENTIAL

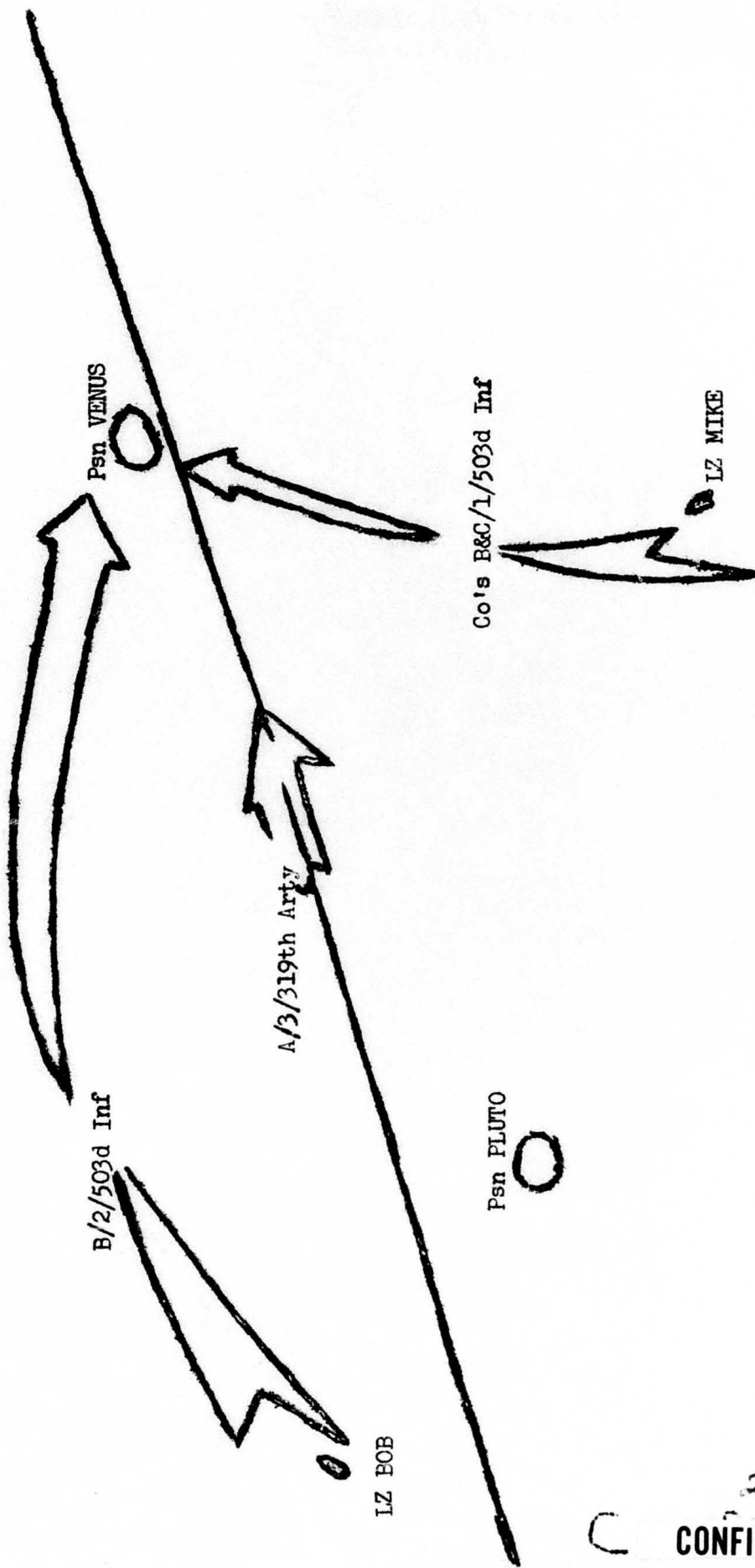
Operation "AURORA I" E + 5



23
C. CONFIDENTIAL

C
CONFIDENTIAL

Operation "AURORA I" D + 6



24
C
CONFIDENTIAL